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1. (Amended once) A method of [treating] smoothing wrinkles in a region of wrinkled skin comprising the steps of:

applying pulsed light to a surface of the region of wrinkled skin[,];

heating collagen [and shrinking the collagen, thereby reviving the elasticity of the collagen and of the skin] in the region of wrinkled skin to a temperature that will shrink the collagen sufficiently to reduce the wrinkles.

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3. (Amended once) [The method of claim 2] A method of smoothing wrinkles in a region of wrinkled skin comprising the steps of:

applying pulsed light to a surface of the region of wrinkled skin;

protecting the epidermis and outer layers of the skin by cooling the epidermis of the skin;

heating collagen in the region of wrinkled skin to a temperature that will shrink the collagen sufficiently to reduce the wrinkles, wherein the step of cooling includes the step of applying a transparent substance having a temperature less than an ambient temperature[,] to the region of skin.

7. (Amended once) [The method of claim 2] A method of smoothing wrinkles in a region of wrinkled skin comprising the steps of:

applying pulsed light to a surface of the region of wrinkled skin;

protecting the epidermis and outer layers of the skin by cooling the epidermis of the skin;

heating collagen in the region of wrinkled skin to a temperature that will shrink the collagen sufficiently to reduce the wrinkles, wherein the step of cooling includes the step of applying a transparent substance to the region of skin and reducing the temperature of the substance.

12. (Amended once) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of pulsing a laser includes the step of pulsing a [Nd(Yag)] Nd:YAG laser.

21. (Amended once) [The method of claim 20] A method of generating a temperature distribution inside a region of skin having a maximum temperature at a selected depth comprising the steps of:

cooling the epidermis of the region of wrinkled skin to provide a first depth-wise temperature profile; and

applying pulsed light to the region of skin sufficient to change the first depth-wise temperature profile to a second depth-wise temperature profile having a temperature maxima at the selected depth below the surface of the skin, wherein the step of cooling includes the step of applying a transparent substance having a temperature less than an ambient temperature[,] to the region of skin.

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23. (Amended once) [The method of claim 20] A method of generating a temperature distribution inside a region of skin having a maximum temperature at a selected depth comprising the steps of:

cooling the epidermis of the region of wrinkled skin to provide a first depth-wise temperature profile; and

applying pulsed light to the region of skin sufficient to change the first depth-wise temperature profile to a second depth-wise temperature profile having a temperature maxima at the selected depth below the surface of the skin, wherein the step of cooling includes the step of applying a transparent substance to the region of skin and reducing the temperature of the substance.

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24. (Amended once) [The method of claim 20] A method of generating a temperature distribution inside a region of skin having a maximum temperature at a selected depth comprising the steps of:

cooling the epidermis of the region of wrinkled skin to provide a first depth-wise temperature profile; and

applying pulsed light to the region of skin sufficient to change the first depth-wise temperature profile to a second depth-wise temperature profile having a temperature maxima at the selected depth below the surface of the skin, further including the steps of controlling a pulse duration and applying multiple pulses.

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25. (Amended once) An apparatus for treating a region of skin comprising:

a pulsed light source [capable of] for heating and shrinking collagen [and shrinking the collagen, thereby reviving the elasticity of the collagen and of the skin,] in the region of skin to a degree sufficient to reduce wrinkles in the region of skin; and

a housing, in which the pulsed light source is disposed, wherein the housing includes an aperture [suitable for directing the] disposed with respect to

the pulsed light source to direct light emitted from the light source to the region of skin.

26. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim 25 further including a timer, connected to the pulsed light source, for indicating when a delay time has [passes] passed after an application of a cooling substance to the skin region.

27. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim [25] 26 wherein the pulsed light source includes a microprocessor for determining the delay time in response to a selected skin temperature profile.

28. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim [25] 26 wherein the pulsed light source includes a microprocessor for determining the delay time in response to a selected collagen heating depth.

29. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim 26 including means for reducing the temperature of the cooling substance, wherein [the cooling] means for reducing is disposed to provide a signal indicative of cooling to the timer.

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32. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the laser is a [Nd(Yag)] Nd:YAG laser.

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39. (Amended once) A method of cutaneous resurfacing of a region of skin by removing at least an outer layer of skin in the region comprising the steps of:

producing Er:YAG laser light[,]; and

08 directing the light to the region of skin for a duration and with an intensity sufficient to remove an outer layer of skin;

waiting for a period of time not less than the thermal relaxation time of the skin; and

repeating the step of directing the light.

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43. (Amended once) An apparatus [of cutaneous resurfacing of] for skin rejuvenation by removing at least an outer layer of skin in a region of skin comprising:

an Er:YAG laser light source disposed in a

09 housing capable of directing light to the region of skin for a duration and with an intensity sufficient to remove the outer layer;

a pulse forming circuit coupled to the Er:YAG laser light source including a pulse delay circuit for providing a delay between sequential pulses of

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Er:YAG light for a period of time not less than the thermal relaxation time of the skin.

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~~15~~. (Amended once) The apparatus of claim [44] 12 ~~13~~, wherein the [pulse forming circuit includes a] pulse delay circuit [for producing] produces a delay in the range of 0.5-10msec between pulses.

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~~17~~. (Amended once) An apparatus for the cutaneous resurfacing of a region of skin, including skin resurfacing [or] and wrinkle smoothing, which comprises:

an incoherent light source such as a flashlamp for generating incoherent light for heating collagen to a temperature sufficient to reduce wrinkling;

an Er:YAG laser which can be operated in multiple pulse mode for generating laser light; and

a delivery system disposed to deliver the incoherent light and laser light to the region.

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.111 in light of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.115.